

November 2010



The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Experimenting with Native Plants in the Landscape: The Slideshow!

Speaker: Pete Veilleux

Wednesday, November 17, 7:30 pm

Location: Auditorium, Orinda Public Library (directions below)

If you came to the September 22 meeting, you know we experienced serious “technical difficulties” that rendered Pete Veilleux’s slideshow unshowable. But all was not lost, and we were instead treated to Pete’s informative impromptu talk about the great plants he had brought with him that night.



Pete Veilleux, photo by Pedro Vasquez

Because the impromptu September talk was very different from the presentation Pete had planned, we’re going to give the slideshow a second try. This time, we’ll test the equipment way ahead of time and make sure it works! Come to learn Pete’s secrets for growing some of the more unusual or tricky native plants as well as to see his beautiful photos.

Here’s what Pete will cover in this month’s presentation:

Did you know that you can grow some natives in containers with no holes in them? Do you know what to plant in that scorching hot spot up on the hill? Or do you know how to plant a madrone in your yard so that it will thrive? How about getting something to grow in a very shady but dry spot right next to a structure? What does “bright shade” mean?

Or “partial sun”?

Come to Pete Veilleux’s presentation and get the scoop on how to do it right the first time – or if you’ve already killed a few plants, how to get it right the next time. Pete will talk about his experiments growing woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*), chaparral pea (*Pickeringia montana*), and our local bush poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*) along with many other plants rarely seen in the home landscape.

Pete Veilleux left a 20-year career in social services and international development to pursue his love of gardening with native plants in 2002. Since then he has founded East Bay Wilds, a design-install-maintenance company and native plant nursery. One of his goals is to help people make the connection between their yards and the greater wild world around us. Pete is an avid photographer and plant explorer as well as a horticultural innovator.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month’s meeting takes place in the Auditorium of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Auditorium is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Auditorium opens at 7:00 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornica@earthlink.net, if you have any questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way

From the west, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way.

From the east, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.

Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the two-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian

PLANT FAIR SURVEY

Did you attend the Plant Fair? Yes No

If not, why not? _____

How did you find out about the Plant Fair?

Bay Leaf Newsletter	East Bay CNPS website	Facebook page
East Bay CNPS newsgroup	Internet search	Facebook ad
Advertisement or Poster	Listing in local events calendar (online)	Listing in local events calendar (paper or radio)
Word-of-Mouth/Friend	Road Sign (Tilden Park)	E-newsletters of other organizations
Other		

Comments or Suggestions: _____

What is the main reason you went to the Plant Fair this year?

Purchase plants	Hear speaker(s)	Purchase garden books
Meet Laura Cunningham	Shop garden vendors	Support/Join California Native Plant Society
Learn about gardening	All/some of the above	Other

Comments or Suggestions: _____

If you prefer to complete an online survey, a link to the survey is at www.ebcnps.org/nativehere.html or on the Nursery Facebook page, which can be accessed by logging in to Facebook and typing "Native Here" in the search box. Or send completed surveys to:

Beverly Powell
 1288 145th Avenue
 San Leandro CA 94578

Thank you for completing this survey!

FIELD TRIP REPORT: VAQUEROS FARMS NORTH

It was the perfect east county day for a field trip. We were a few miles from Brentwood at Vaqueros Farms North to explore the new property acquired by the East Bay Regional Park District and the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Conservancy. We were there also to see a sample of what our years of involvement in the ECC-HCP process had brought us and to answer the important question: what



botanic value does the conservancy buy for the public with developer dollars? One day this land will be open to the public as part of an East Bay Regional Park.

The property is located on the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley subregion of the California Floristic Province, near the boundary between the Los Vaqueros and Byron areas. This portion of Contra Costa County is known for its dry, hot climate and alkaline rich habitats.

Our party, led by botanist Chris Thayer, packed into a two-car caravan which threaded its way through the open rolling grassland of ranching country. We were hosted by Abby Fateman from the conservancy.

At our first stop a vast expanse of narrow tarplant (*Holocarpha virgata* subsp. *virgata*, shown in the photo by Bob Sikora) spread out in full bloom across the grassland in a sea of yellow. Here and there rock outcrops encrusted with black and brilliant orange lichens dotted the landscape.

A large portion of the valley bottom soils at Vaquero Farms North is characterized as Pescadero clay loam. Pescadero soils are strongly alkaline resulting in vegetation types with low cover values and constituent plant species that have a tolerance for soils with an elevated pH. In certain areas this

FIELD TRIP

Friday November 26, 10 am: Field Trip to Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park (Union City/south Hayward area)

Join Janet Gawthrop on Buy Nothing Day (except maybe mass transit fare) for this moderate hike up to Tolman Peak. This trip will take in the oaks and riparian trees in fruit along Dry Creek, and then proceed uphill to Tolman Peak. There is a population of hairy milkweeds at the summit. If you would like a plant list for the park, e-mail janetgawthrop47@gmail.com. Bring water, lunch, and your well-behaved stock dog for this trip ending in mid-to-late afternoon. Heavy rain cancels this trip (we can reschedule for the same weekend if I receive at least 5 advance e-mails expressing interest).

Directions: Drivers should take the Whipple Ave. exit from

accumulation of salt and high levels of sodium in the soil has led to the development of alkali scalds. Alkali scalds exhibit saline or alkaline crusts on the soil surface, supporting little or no vegetation. Here in these lowlands tenacious, salt-loving plant species such as alkali heath (*Frankenia salina*), saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), and prairie plantain (*Plantago elongata*) were found. We observed a CNPS List 4.2 plant species, crownscale (*Atriplex coronata* var. *coronata*). Because of its abundance throughout the Central Valley, its rank is relegated to the statewide watch list. However, locally, this species is known from only 3 to 5 of the 40 East Bay botanic regions; therefore it is on our locally rare plant list as an A2 species. We also discovered a small population of locally rare iodine bush (*Allenrolfea occidentalis*) that had been severely grazed, marking an important management issue to be taken up by the conservancy.

We also saw on the uplands and exposed rock ridgelines late season familiars found on this side of Mount Diablo like California matchweed (*Gutierrezia californica*), vinegarweed (*Trichostema lanceolatum*), common hareleaf (*Lagophylla ramosissima* subsp. *ramosissima*), Great valley gumweed (*Grindelia camporum*), and Kellogg's tarweed (*Deinandra kelloggii*).

A second stop revealed a population of locally rare coyote thistle (*Eryngium castrense*) growing in the dried margins of a pond below a ridge of blue oaks (*Quercus douglasii*). During our visit we saw an abundance of special status animals including red-legged frogs, golden eagles, and burrowing owls. We were hoping to find big tarplant (*Blepharizonia plumosa*), a CNPS List 1B species, but we were disappointed.

Thanks to Janet Gawthrop for organizing this field trip, to Chris Thayer for sharing his botanical expertise with us, to Abby Fateman for arranging access to the property, and to Bob Sikora for his excellent photographs (to see more photos from the field trip, go to Bobsikora@smugmug.com).

Laura Baker and Heath Bartosh

880, and proceed east on Whipple Road to its end at the intersection with Mission Blvd. Cross Mission Blvd and jog south slightly to May Road, and follow May Road to its end at the park entrance. You may park inside the park (\$5.00 if kiosk is attended) or on the streets.

Mass transit riders from the north should take BART to the South Hayward station, and take the #99 AC Transit bus from its terminus in the station parking lot (fare \$1.75 with BART transfer). Proceed south on Mission Blvd and exit the bus at the intersection of May and Mission Blvd. Walk into the park by following May Road to the park entrance, less than 1/2 mile. (Disregard the instructions for #21 line on the Regional Parks website--AC Transit renumbered this route, which has all the same stops under the new route number).

MEMBERSHIP NOTES



Barbara Fletcher Barbour, photo by Phred Jackson.

Meet Barbara Fletcher Barbour

A Childhood Memory of Miss Alice Eastwood from an Eighty-Three Year Old Perspective

I became a CNPS member sometime before I began learning to propagate with the CNPS group at Merritt College. And through that experience I began to develop a garden of primarily California native plants; in fact, many if not most of the plants in my garden are from the CNPS plant sales.

At the age of eight my family and I moved to a ranch in the hills N.E. of Sonoma, bordering on the Sonoma and Napa county line. The property had not been lived on for 9-10 years; the main house was without electricity, running water, or plumbing, and one went to the 2nd floor by an outside ladder; most of the glass windows had been shot out. At that time there were 500 acres, which through the years grew to a diversified ranch of 1,000 +/- acres. Above the canyon in which the house stood was a long wide meadow bordered by live oaks that we called "the plains". In spring it was a palette of colors- poppies, lupines, tidy tips, Chinese houses, and of course grass (primarily non-native). There were second growth redwood groves on the banks of creeks in two canyons. When I rode my horse through the redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) the air was fragrant with azalea blooms (*Rhododendron occidentale*), and I loved the scent of spice bush (*Calycanthus occidentalis*) when I pinched the leaves or flowers. The squirrels usually beat me to the hazelnuts (*Corylus cornuta*). Perhaps it was from my mother's pleasure in these and her own lovely garden that she became a long time member of CNPS. During her elder years I remember writing her annual membership checks to CNPS.

My mother's Austrian father, Kaspar Pischel, MD (1862-1953) was not a gardener, but instead was very interested and curious in all things of the natural world, among which included a longtime membership in the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. Together they would ride in Golden Gate Park and later hike on Mt Tamalpais. He had gone on a camp-

ing trip in 1901 with Alice Eastwood (1859-1953), the memory of which causes me to laugh because I recall the description of this trip in the book, *Alice Eastwood's Wonderland* by Carol Green Wilson. In her chapter "Into High Mountains" is the author's humorous description of my grandfather having been burdened by his city-bred wife's notions of the necessary (read excessive) dunnage for such a venture, a considerable part of which had to be cached for later retrieval. Evidently, Miss Eastwood "ripped open" and reduced his Alaskan-weight sleeping bag to a more manageable proportion and thus more bearable by the packhorses.

When I was about ten years old seated at my grandparents' dinner table in Ross, Marin County, sitting across from me was their guest, Miss Alice Eastwood. I don't remember who else may have been there or their conversation; I was much too shy to enter into that of the grown-up world. I do, however, remember being introduced to Miss Eastwood and being quite awed by her presence. Who she was or what she represented, of course, I had no way of knowing. I vaguely recall that she attempted to engage me by asking a few questions about my mother's ranch. But most of all I remember looking through the candelabra and across the wide table covered with its customary white linen tablecloth at what appeared to me to be someone special, seemingly wise and quietly congenial with a soft smile. I now wonder what my grandmother and Miss Eastwood found to discuss. Although my grandmother was a gracious hostess she was not part of the scientific world, nor did she enjoy the more rugged outdoor activities; these were the domain of my grandfather. (In fact, flower bouquets for the house were fragrance free, not due to reasons allergenic, but I think that scent was simply too what? unmanageable? stimulating? for her Victorian childhood upbringing). Now that I think of it, Miss Eastwood must have been my grandfather's particular guest as she was seated to his right. The conversation appeared to flow easily with some light laughter; these handsome white-haired (white-bearded in my grandfather's case) grownups were much too well-mannered to allow uncomfortable lapses, especially in that somewhat formal albeit cordial setting.

How I wish I had been old enough to appreciate Miss Alice Eastwood for who and what she was! Or old enough to have been able to engage in or listen to the conversation with more understanding. What my memory holds dear, however, is the picture of her seated across the dining room table, her kind intelligent face framed by white hair, and that visage framed by the large door-windows with the distant backdrop of the profile on the ridge of Mt. Tamalpais called "the Lady on the Mountain".

Barbara Fletcher Barbour
Berkeley 2010

New Members

Please join us in welcoming our new members for the September time frame, John Katko, Mark Gardner, Brian Murphy, Nancy Nagy, and Phoebe McCormick

As always, a huge thank you to our renewing members.

NATIVE HERE

Plant Fair: As we write this, the Plant Fair has not yet taken place. The nursery is looking great, with plants groomed, walks cleared, chips making comfortable paths to walk on, inventory checked, plant cards in place, volunteers ready. We will post pictures and a report on the web site once we recover from the effort of putting on the event.

Many thanks to the committee and all the volunteers who made it a wonderful weekend.

We were lucky to have students from San Lorenzo High School help get the nursery ready.

Native Here Nursery

Due to the late season and taking time out to prepare the nursery for the Plant Fair, our "seed seekers" will be extending the season into November. Those wishing to be informed of weekly plans may ask to be included on the distribution list by contacting nativehere@ebcnps.org.

Think Globally, Volunteer locally

We hope you all had a grand time at our Plant Fair 2010.

Elaine Jackson (elianejx@att.net, 925.372.0687)

Have you been following our Native Here Nursery page on Facebook? Check it out! Ask friends to look in on it and "like" the site. Many excellent photos by Janice Bray and Bob Case are featured. Breaking news is also announced via the Facebook page.

Post Fair, we are revising the inventory or catalog of plants to post on the website. Because we declared a moratorium on potting for late September and early October, we will be potting up plants that have been waiting. New plants will be offered for sale this month and through the winter.

Plant sales continue at the nursery year round, with a big focus for the October Plant Fair and the May Bringing Back the Natives Tour. We encourage you to make plant purchases through the ideal planting season of November through April. We are open every Tuesday noon -three pm; Friday nine to noon; and Saturday 10 to 2 pm (except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day).

Charli Danielsen



Photos by Janice Bray of people setting up for the plant fair: cleaning seeds, preparing the drive, and watering.



THE WAYNE RODERICK LECTURES WINTER 2010-2011

at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden

Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive (South Park Drive is closed Nov.-March)
in Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley, CA (510) 544-3169 E-mail Address: bgarden@ebparks.org
http://www.ebparks.org/parks/vc/botanic_garden www.nativeplants.org

Saturday mornings 10:30 Free

[**Notice: Seating is limited.** To be sure of a seat, come early and save a chair.]

2010

Nov. 6 Plant hunting on the Trinity ultramafic sheet of Mt. Eddy, Siskiyou County: the hits just keep comin' – Steve Edwards

Nov. 13 A taste of the old Southwest, spring 2010 in Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas – Bob Case

Nov. 20 Cloud forests of Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico – Ted Kipping

Nov. 27 Ecology of ice age megafauna and the first Americans, including new developments – Steve Edwards

December, January & February dates and topics to be announced soon.

Free tours of the botanic garden every Saturday at 2:00 pm; Sunday at 11:00am & 2:00 pm (when it's not raining). No tours when we conduct our annual plant sale on the third Saturday in April; no tours when the garden is closed (Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day).

Chapter Directory

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Erin McDermott, Chair
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Outreach (vacant)

Education (vacant)

EBCNPS Sponsored

Activities

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greentheglobe@juno.com

Grant Awards

Sandy McCoy
sandymccoy@mindspring.com

Native Here Nursery

510-549-0211
Manager—Charli Daniels
nativehere@ebcnps.org
Sales—Margot Cunningham
bunchgrassmarg@gmail.com

Seed Collection—Gregg Weber
510-223-3310

Plant Fair

Gudrun Kleist
510-222-2320
gkleist@sbcglobal.net
and Charli Daniels
Coordinators

Restoration Projects

Leaders:
Huckleberry—Janet Gawthrop

Point Isabel—Tom and Jane Kelly
510-704-8628 (w)
510-684-6484 (c)
kyotousa@sbcglobal.net
Strawberry Creek—Tom and Jane Kelly

Officers and Committee Chairs serve on the Board.

Committees are formed based on chapter needs and the interests of volunteers. Proposals for committees and projects are welcome and will be considered by the Board.

RESTORATION REPORT

Sponsored by the East Bay Chapter of CNPS, the Point Isabel Restoration Team held a special planting party on Sunday, Oct.10, at Pt. Isabel as part of 350.org's Global Work Party to bring attention to our concerns about climate change. 350.org's mission is to inspire the world to rise to the challenge of the climate crisis—to create a new sense of urgency and of possibility for our planet. The planting party, which we billed as "Sequestering CO2 with California Native Grasses" was just one of more than 7,347 events, held on 10.10.10 in 188 countries around the world.

The day turned out to be just perfect for what we had planned – the planting of 70 California native grasses along the Bay Trail. 19 volunteers (including members of a meditation group who joined us for the first time) showed up to plant the *Melica californica* (California melic grass) and *Nassella pulchra* (purple needle grass). We talked about how these perennial native grasses extract carbon from the atmosphere and store it in their large root systems and surrounding soil. The grass plugs were grown by the Watershed Nursery from seed collected in West Contra Costa, and by us from seed collected from site. The EBRPD paid for most of the grasses.

Bernie Clark, Ron Barrett, and Jane photographed the day's event - see a sampling of their photos at http://www.daviddoodle.com/350_day/

Oona Leek from the EBRPD did a fantastic job providing tools, access, and cheerfully supporting us throughout the day. Many thanks to Kevin Takei and to Oona for their assistance.

The plants in the area are all thriving and we are seeing more birds and insects every time we are there.

As someone posted on the 350.org site, "There is no Planet B". CNPS is an amazing organization that helps us protect our shared environment.

Jane and Tom Kelly

Editor's note: The East Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is not affiliated with 350.org.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Restoration. The Redwood Regional Park crew will meet at Skyline Gate on Saturday, November 6 at 9 am, and the Huckleberry Regional Park crew will meet at the parking lot on Saturday, November 13 at 9:30 am.

Members Meeting (see page 1). Pete Veilleux reprise, Wednesday, November 17, 7:30 pm, Orinda Public Library

Native Here Nursery (see page 2). Open every Tuesday noon

to three pm; Friday nine to noon; and Saturday 10 to 2 pm (except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day).

Field Trips (see page 3). Field Trip to Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park, Friday, November 24, 10 am.

Board Meeting. Thursday, December 2, 6:30 PM. Le Bateau Ivre, 2629 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley.

For late breaking news and events, join the chapter announcement mailing list by visiting <http://groups.google.com/group/ebcnps> and clicking on Join this group. Email traffic is low and limited to official chapter announcements.

For the latest activities of the Conservation Committee check out <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com/>.

You can add yourself to the CNPS eNewsletter mailing list for current news about CNPS. The mailings are approximately monthly. Look under Publications on the cnps.org website or go to <https://cnps.org/cnps/publications/news/index.php>.

Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

I wish to affiliate with:

East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

Other _____

Membership category:

Individual, \$45

Family, Library, Group or International, \$75

Plant lover, \$100

Patron, \$300

Benefactor, \$600

Mariposa Lily, \$1500

Limited Income or student, \$25.00

Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816